To what extent Bottrop has approached this ambitious goal by “half time”, was explained by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Manfred Fischedick, Vice President of the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy in Bottrop today. Taking part in the presentation were, besides the Lord Mayor Bernd Tischler, also NRW Minister of Construction Michael Groschek, IR CEO Dirk Opalka and Bernd Tönjes, Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Innovation City Management GmbH (ICM).

Within the scope of the supporting scientific research funded by the federal state (Land) of NRW the scientific advisory board led by the Wuppertal Institute evaluated the projects and results of InnovationCity Ruhr so far. For that, on the one hand, the CO₂ savings achieved to date, the investments triggered and the production and employment effects were examined. On the other hand, the researchers looked at the InnovationCity process as well as the participation of business and the population.

CO₂ emissions reduced by about 38 percent
By means of measures and projects concluded and those already initiated, the implementation of which is certain, a reduction of the CO₂ emissions by 2020 (since 2010) of approx. 38 percent, i.e. by about 100,000 tons, is obtained. For comparison: this saving corresponds to the CO₂ absorption of a grown wood of the size of the entire area of the city of Bottrop (100 km²) within one year. Accordingly, by the end of the project in the next five years another twelve percentage points of the CO₂ emissions will have to be saved by new projects. With the Master plan of InnovationCity a collection of ideas for this is available, from which specific projects can be developed.
Average energy-related modernisation rate: Around three percent

The energy-related modernisation of residential buildings makes an important contribution to reducing CO$_2$ emissions. Therefore it is crucial to sensitise, inform and to advise building owners with regards to reasonable modernisation measures.

Due to the extensive activation and consulting measures of InnovationCity Ruhr an annual energy-related modernisation rate averaging three percent was achieved which is thus clearly above the average for the Federal Republic of Germany of very nearly one percent.

The key to this success lies in, among other things, the multi-stage target approach concept and the offer of the free-of-charge first counselling session that all Bottrop house owners can take up. By autumn 2015 1,872 prospects for refurbishing/modernisation from the area of the city accepted this offer. Based on the pilot area examined 56 percent of those persons advised have also carried out measures within their own four walls. An analysis of the participation processes showed, in addition, that at the various information events not only knowledge of facts, but also practical know-how for climate-protecting behaviour in everyday life was imparted.

**Funding Guideline 11.1 – innovative and direct use of urban development funding means**

Moreover, in the pilot area a new instrument for funding by the city is available, in the case of which urban development funds for the first time can be paid out direct to owners of real property for energy-related modernisation measures. Depending on the type of building and the CO$_2$ reduction potential of particular measures, funding of up to 25 percent is possible. From 2014 until September 2015 111 applicants profited from this funding with a total application volume of 3.58 million euros, 2.6 million euros having already been authorised by the city and 382,000 euros having been distributed. This means an average funding rate of 14.7 percent.

**Investments and employment effects: Benefits for Bottrop!**

More than 300 individual projects result in substantial investments in Bottrop which lead to additional benefits for the city itself as well as its citizens. Furthermore InnovationCity Ruhr generates and safeguards Jobs by means of strengthening the economy locally.

Due to the concluded projects and projects so far initiated as well as the energy-related modernisation measures by 2020 more than 290 million euros will certainly be invested within the scope of the project, with 183 million euros of that being attributable to projects already implemented. From these investments above all the local companies profit: an estimated 110 million euros flowed through orders to Bottrop companies. Added to this are approx. 26 million euros to wholesale and consumer goods production (increase in regional production by increase in regional incomes and thus in consumer spending).

The investments also involve effects on the employment rate. As a direct employment effect over the entire time there was an increase of 924 gainfully employed person years. The indirect effects again lead to a further 276 employment years. Hence, in total 1,200 gainfully employed person years were newly created. This equates to about 300 jobs.
It was found that the high level of support and the commitment in the actions of all of the players involved, for example shareholders, municipal administration and the Land (federal state) government, were a guarantee for the success of the project. Also the innovative control concept in the form of Innovation City Management GmbH (ICM) is convincing as a result of high flexibility and decision-making competence. At the same time the greater independence from municipal political decision-making structures with a simultaneously strong enmeshing with the players on the spot plays an important part. This is, the analysis states, also reflected in innovative project designs. Many of the implementation projects in the model area have the nature of system innovations: they combine the implementation of novel technologies in existing infrastructures with the simultaneous testing of social innovations, such as new business models or innovative participation patterns.

Moreover, according to the examinations carried out the citizens are closely integrated into the InnovationCity process: in the case of about a quarter of the events Bottrop residents had the opportunity to contribute their knowledge, views and their ideas of the future.

Cooperation with various business companies beyond the Bottrop area is not only of great importance as a result of the close link with Initiativkreis Ruhr, but also due to the numerous projects and partnerships and in this form it is a unique selling point for the project. For example, the business partners emphasise in a survey that the project pursues a clear vision and has a high radiance – both central aspects that permit successful cooperation.

In addition, ICM formed a suitable format for bringing together the specific resources of the municipalities and the business partners on a project-related and professional basis.

Above and beyond the pure figures, by means of the supporting scientific research the design and structuring of the InnovationCity process as well as cooperation with players from business were analysed.